

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP
April 25, 2001 MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Review of March 28 meeting notes

No revisions were made to the March 28, 2001, CALFED Ops meeting notes.

Announcements

The new CALFED Operations Group web page was presented. It is being resigned to improve its layout and navigability. The same address will take the user to the new page, however addresses on some of the subsequent pages may have changed so previously set user bookmarks may have to be updated.

The following handouts were provided at the meeting:

1. 1995 WQCP Obligations Exceed 450 TAF, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Record of Decision Commitment, April 11, 2001, DWR, Curtis Creel
2. CALFED Operations Briefing Package, April 25, 2001, DWR, John Leahigh
3. Winter-run Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Spring-run Chinook Update, April 25, 2001, NMFS, Bruce Oppenheim
4. Delta Smelt 20 mm Survey Package, DFG, Jim White

VAMP

A peak weekend flow of 4,900 cfs is anticipated. The projects are targeting 4,450 cfs. A mean daily flow of 4,700 cfs was measured yesterday. There is a tolerance of 300 cfs, plus or minus 7 percent. The projects combined export rate has been 1,500 cfs since April 20th.

Temporary Barriers

The Head of Old River barrier as well as the Middle River and Old River barriers will be closed by April 26th. The Grantline Canal barrier can not be closed until May 4th. Modeling studies show that low water levels may occur during May 1 to 3. The following items have been discussed: switching the pumping at Tracy to Banks; closing Grantline barrier completely; and using portable pumps in lieu of Grantline barrier. The question of whether delta smelt is going to be a problem was raised. The delta smelt decision tree will have to be followed. The flap gates are tied open for the Old and Middle River barriers.

Environmental Water Account Implementation

The EWA matrix at the back of the Operations Package was discussed.

OFF and DAT Update

B2 water accounting and the 450 taf capacity on b2 water used to meet water quality control plan obligations was discussed. Relaxing the E/I ratio was also discussed.

Five days (April 5-9) of curtailment were made requiring EWA expenditures. Lately, however, salvages have been low at the project pumping plants. DAT calls have been weekly. Next week, Zack Hymanson will replace Sheila Greene leading the DAT call as the concern transitions from winter run Chinook salmon to delta smelt.

OPERATIONS

CVP/SWP Operations Status:

The Operations package was distributed and discussed. The flow at Vernalis should be corrected to 4,700 cfs instead of 2,700 cfs. Freeport flows have increased from 10,000 cfs last week to 13,000 cfs this week. An outage at the Skinner Fish Facility will result in operations drawing down Clifton Court Forebay. Discussions about how to operate the Delta Cross Channel gates for fish near the end of May will be made through the DAT calls.

Delta Operations Criteria:

Bay-Delta Standards for the month of April were discussed.

Operations Plan:

The USBR distributed and discussed tables of (b)(2) Expenditure Summary WY 2001 and WY 2001 B2 Accounting Based on March 1 for 90% and 50% Exceedence.

Fishery Status

Salmon: Fall run Chinook salmon are moving downstream as expected. They have been observed at Mossdale. The hatchery fish are also being observed.

NMFS proposes to check the predation rates in Clifton Court Forebay. The last study was made in 1994 and the current rates are an average of 3 studies.

Institutional constraints have limited operations.

Splittail: Dan Buford is the new Fish and Wildlife representative at the CALFED Operations Group meetings.

Splittail salvages have been low. The comment period has been reopened. If parties have already commented in January, no further comments are necessary. The deadline for the latest comment period is June 22. A signup sheet to receive splittail notices was distributed.

Delta Smelt: Delta smelt 20-mm salvage and frequency charts were distributed and discussed. Survey 5 should provide more meaningful results as the smelt size increases.

Agenda items for Next Meeting . . . May 23, 2001